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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fourth session
1-12 March 2010
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women on the basis of informal consultations

Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing the significance of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Adopts the declaration annexed to the present resolution, and requests that it be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council for transmission to the General Assembly for its endorsement.

10-25137 (E) 010310

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Annex

Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

We, the representatives of Governments gathered at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, in the context of the review of the outcomes of the Conference and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and its contribution to the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women", to be held in July 2010, and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly which will focus on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, to be held from 20 to 22 September 2010,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

2. *Welcome* the progress made thus far towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, stress that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and, in this regard, pledge to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation;

3. *Emphasize* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and stress the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on accelerating progress towards the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

4. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Call upon* the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fourth session
1-12 March 2010
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Namibia:* draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[4] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[5] the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000[6] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV and AIDS, as well as the commitments on HIV/AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit,

Welcoming the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women,[7] and taking note of the recommendations contained therein,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[5] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[7] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

10-25997 (E) 080310

Please recycle

Taking note of the outcome of the 2008 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretary-General on 25 February 2008 to launch a multi-year campaign to end violence against women,

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Reaffirming that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Deeply concerned also by the increased risk of HIV/AIDS facing women and girls with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, social, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV and AIDS is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, early marriage, forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Also concerned that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Further concerned that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of and care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS,

Stressing with deep concern that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action in all fields and at all levels,

Stressing that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and are essential to reversing the pandemic,

Expressing its concern that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the HIV and AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting those infected and affected by the disease and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the HIV and AIDS crisis,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS;[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[5] the Beijing Platform for Action[9] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[3]

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to scale up towards universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

4. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, as set out in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

5. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses, and urges Governments to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

6. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, to strengthen their economic independence and their right to property and inheritance, and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned grandchildren;

8. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased risk of HIV/AIDS facing women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

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[8] E/CN.6/2009/6.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

10. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

11. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by girls caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school;

12. *Also urges* Governments to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of prevention commodities, in particular male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, as well as to promote the ongoing research for safe and effective microbicides;

13. *Reminds* States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by States, when necessary, to protect public health and address public health crises;

14. *Urges* Governments to strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, female genital mutilation, abuse, early marriage and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

15. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early and forced marriage and marital rape;

16. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, and to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products, in particular for women and girls;

17. *Urges* Governments to ensure that women and girls have equitable and sustained access to treatment for HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases, appropriate to their age, health and nutritional status, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with, inter alia, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments, and to protection from coerced sexual activity, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

18. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to

health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health, education programmes and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases;

19. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

20. *Stresses* that women should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

21. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

22. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and voluntary testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women infected by HIV;

23. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations in order to continue to scale up efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the integration of the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

24. *Welcomes* the decision of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to scale up a gender-sensitive response to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in order to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection;

25. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

26. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and to raise awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

28. *Urges* Governments to rapidly scale up access to treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in those programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

29. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

30. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sexual education and services necessary for behavioural change, to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

31. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV and AIDS;

32. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including microbicides and vaccines and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

33. *Also encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV or affected by the pandemic and to address the challenges faced by the survivors and caregivers, in particular children and older

persons, utilizing funds earmarked for care and support to reduce women's disproportionate burden of care, as well as to provide the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

34. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment to combat stigmatization;

35. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with HIV, in particular women and girls, are protected;

36. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls in HIV response, to ensure resources to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

37. *Also urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure that gender equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that such new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

38. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

39. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

40. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially to address the needs of women and girls, in particular those countries most affected by HIV and AIDS, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean, countries at high risk of expansion of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and countries in other affected regions whose resources for dealing with the epidemic are seriously limited;

41. *Recommends* also that, in the process of the review of the Millennium Development Goals, gender-equality perspectives should be included throughout the deliberations and that attention should be paid to the situation of women and girls infected or affected by HIV and AIDS.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Namibia:* revised draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[4] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[5] the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000[6] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the transmission of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV/AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit,[7]

Welcoming the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women,[8] taking note of the recommendations contained therein,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[8] A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

10-26596 (E) 100310

Please recycle

and welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretary-General in 2008 to launch a multi-year campaign to end violence against women,

Taking note of the outcome of the 2008 high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS,

Recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are increasingly vulnerable to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Also deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV and AIDS is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, child marriage, forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Also concerned that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Further concerned that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS and have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of and care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS,

Stressing that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action in addressing internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in all fields and at all levels,

Also stressing that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and are essential to reversing the pandemic,

Expressing its concern that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the epidemic, that they are more easily infected, especially at an earlier age than men and boys, that they bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by the disease and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[5] the Beijing Platform for Action[6] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[7]

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, as set out in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting this goal;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to scale up towards universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, to strengthen their economic independence and their right to property and inheritance, and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the pandemic;

6. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned and vulnerable children;

7. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls living with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

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[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by girls caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school;

11. *Urges* Governments to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of prevention commodities, in particular male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, as well as to promote the ongoing research for safe and effective microbicides;

12. *Reminds* Member States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by Member States, when necessary, to protect public health and address public health crises;

13. *Urges* Governments to strengthen and implement legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, abuse, child marriage and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

14. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from child and forced marriage and marital rape;

15. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with, inter alia, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments;

16. *Urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products, in particular for women and girls, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

17. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health, education programmes and social protection schemes, especially for

women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including prevention and treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases;

18. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

19. *Stresses* that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

20. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counseling and voluntary testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the mother-to-child transmission services for pregnant women living with HIV;

22. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations in order to continue to scale up efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the integration of the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

23. *Welcomes* the decision of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to scale up a gender-sensitive response to HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in order to address the vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection;

24. *Requests* the secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

25. *Welcomes* the *Operational Plan for UNAIDS Action Framework: Addressing Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV*, endorsed by the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS at its twenty-fifth session, and calls on Member States and other partners to support its implementation;

26. *Recommends* the development and use of gender analysis, the harmonization of data and the development and refinement of indicators as part of the process to update the core indicators on HIV and AIDS for the reporting system under the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to help measure the inequalities faced by women and girls in the context of HIV;

27. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS;

28. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

29. *Welcomes* the call by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to prevention and treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in those programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

30. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

31. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sexual education and services necessary for behavioural change, to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

32. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV and AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV and AIDS;

33. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including microbicides and vaccines and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

34. *Encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV or affected by the pandemic and to address the challenges faced by the survivors and caregivers, in particular children and older persons, as well as to provide the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

35. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV programmes, and urges Governments to develop and implement policies and programmes to eliminate HIV-related stigma and to ensure that the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with HIV, in particular women and girls, are protected;

36. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment to combat stigmatization;

37. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls in HIV response, to ensure resources to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

38. *Also urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to ensure that gender equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that such new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

39. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

41. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially to address the needs of women and girls, in particular those countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean;

42. *Recommends* that, in the process of the review of the Millennium Development Goals, gender-equality perspectives should be included throughout the deliberations and that attention should be paid to the situation of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh,* Belarus, Burkina Faso,* Congo,* Georgia,* Kyrgyzstan,* Philippines* and Turkey: draft resolution

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[7] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993, by the World Conference on Human Rights,[8]

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[3] Resolution 217 A (III).
[4] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.
[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

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Taking fully into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted on 20 December 2006 by the General Assembly in resolution 61/177,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, as well as all resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling also the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[9] as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[10] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[11] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and welcoming the 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and General Assembly decision 64/530 on the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women, peace and security, as well as its resolutions 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 and 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting that women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, that continue to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and cause suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing, in this regard, the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children

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[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[10] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[11] General Assembly resolutionm S-27/2, annex.

hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[11]

Being cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflict and to ensure accountability as regards implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to the conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in conformity with international humanitarian law and in accordance with international human rights standards, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[9] as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[10] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[11] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field;

3. *Also condemns* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all necessary measures, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites*, in this regard, States to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other

appropriate actors working in this area, inter alia, by providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all necessary measures for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

10. *Stresses* both the need to put an end to impunity and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice in accordance with international law those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking;

11. *Also stresses* the need for addressing the issue of release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as a part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information, including improved analysis and dissemination of sex-and-age disaggregated data, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, within the context of the present resolution, the widest possible dissemination of relevant material, in particular material relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), within existing resources;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

15. *Invites* the special rapporteurs, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

17. *Decides* to consider the question at its fifty-sixth session.

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Yemen* and Palestine: draft resolution**

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/2010/4.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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Recalling also its resolution 2009/14 of 28 July 2009 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern over the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, sharp increase in poverty, soaring unemployment, increased food insecurity, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the deepening humanitarian crisis and rising insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the deteriorating economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned in particular about the continuing deterioration in the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the Israeli military operations and the imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of all persons and goods, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[6] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907,[9] the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[10] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the international human rights Covenants, in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[9] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.